

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 3, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

We write to request that you urge all political actors in Haiti to support and uphold free and fair elections. As Haiti prepares for overdue parliamentary and presidential elections later this year, there are serious concerns about whether these elections will be inclusive and transparent.

The 2010 elections in Haiti were marred by reports of fraud, violence, voter intimidation, violations of electoral laws, illegal exclusion of political parties and candidates, and problems with the composition of the electoral council.


Constitutionally mandated parliamentary elections were delayed in 2012, and municipal elections have been delayed since 2011 because President Martelly and opposition parties have failed to agree on terms. Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe resigned amid anti-government protests in December 2104, and the following month the terms of the majority of Haitian members of parliament expired. In addition, Haiti struggles with corruption, a lack of judicial independence, and impunity for violence against the media. Human rights defenders and political opposition face harassment, threats, and arrests.

The United States has invested almost four billion dollars in relief aid in Haiti since the devastating 2010 earthquake. If long-term political and economic stability are to be achieved, it is imperative that the United States work with Haitian officials to promote good governance, uphold democratic values, and ensure that the Haitian people have the ability to freely select their own leaders.

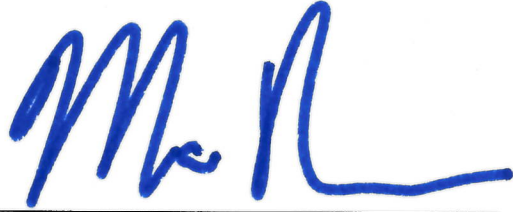
This year's elections are no exception. The United States should work with the international community to ensure that qualified candidates are not excluded from the ballot and that the elections are free, fair, inclusive, and transparent. We request that your administration join with the Organization of American States and other international organizations to support electoral monitoring and observation in Haiti. We also request a detailed update about what your administration is doing to promote free and fair elections in Haiti.

We appreciate your attention to this request and look forward to working together to support the ability of the Haitian people to participate in free and fair elections.

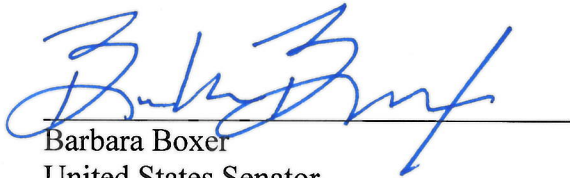
Sincerely,



David Perdue
United States Senator



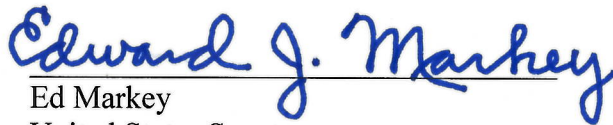
Marco Rubio
United States Senator



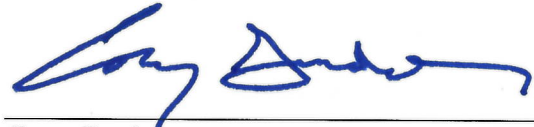
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



Bob Menendez
United States Senator



Ed Markey
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator